

REMARKS

By Office Action dated 03 April 2007, Claims 1-22 were allowed, and Claims 23-46 were withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention. Claims 3, 9, 10, 12-14 and 16 have been amended. Applicants affirm the telephonic election of the Group I invention covered by Claims 1-22. Subsequently, Applicants cancel Claims 23-46 to be pursued in a later filed divisional application.

The amendments to the specification at paragraph [054] are to correct the incorrect reference number of the monolith from 240 to 250 as shown in the Figure and described in the rest of the paragraph. A single grammatical error of incorrect period placement was also corrected.

Applicants amend claim 3 to recite dependence from claim 2 and not claim 4 to overcome the objection for referencing a claim not set forth prior to the claim. Claims 9 and 14 and Claims 10 and 13 have been amended as suggested by the Office for clarity in paragraph 7, page 3 of the Office Action. Claim 12 was also amended to recite the porous polymer monolith is comprised of *one or more polymerized monomers* selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl monomers or a mixture of polyvinyl and monovinyl monomers, to allow the proper antecedent basis of claims 13 and 14. Support for this amendment is found in the original claim 12 and on page 17 of the specification, which states that the monolith is comprised of a polymerized polyvinyl monomer or a polymerization mixture of polyvinyl and monovinyl monomers, thus, one or more polymerized monomers.

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 USC § 112 as not providing sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of the "third monomer." The claim is amended to recite that the device is further comprised of "a polymer chain *comprising a third monomer having a functional group*, wherein said polymer chain is attached to a portion of the porous polymer monolith by photoinitiated grafting of said third monomer." Support for this amendment is found at pages 20-21 of the specification, specifically paragraph [085], where the specification states that "[g]rafting is preferably achieved by irradiation of a stationary porous monolith filled with the

third monomer solution through a mask from a sufficient distance for a sufficient period of time *to graft polymer chains having functional groups to the monolith.*” Paragraphs [086] – [087] then further describe the suitable monomers useful as the third monomer for adding functional groups to the monolith.

No new matter is believed to have been added by these amendments. Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered.

Applicants acknowledge and thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1-22 as being novel over the prior art, specifically over the prior art reference of Rohr, Electrophoresis, 2001, 22, 3959-3967. Applicants also state for the record that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office action, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

CONCLUSION

No additional fee is believed due. However, please charge any necessary and additional fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 120690.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicants encourage the Examiner to call the undersigned at (510) 495-2456.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated 06/26/2007

BY Michelle S. Chew
Michelle S. Chew
Reg. No. 50,456
(510) 495-2456

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
One Cyclotron Road, Mail Stop 90B-0104
Berkeley, California 94720
Telephone (510) 486-7058
Facsimile (510) 486-7896